SAN FELIPE DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT, CALIFORNIA

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER DISTRICT

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12-1967
PG 1 OF 1

PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
June 22, 1967

House of Representatives Interior Committee
Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman

Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation
Honorable Harold T. Johnson, Chairman

Relating to the San Felipe Division of
the Central Valley Project

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald K. Currlin, Manager-Counsel of the Santa Clara County Flood Control and Water District.

I appreciate the opportunity of presenting this material to you. My remarks will be concerned only with the Santa Clara County sub-areas of the San Felipe Division. The local water agencies interested in the project are the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District whose primary interest is in the North Santa Clara County sub-area, the South Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District and the Pacheco Water District, the latter two being interested in the South Santa Clara County sub-area, and the Santa Clara County Flood Control and Water District, an overall County-wide organization interested in and responsible for both sub-areas of the project. I will confine my remarks to three general topics:

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 1 OF 21

One, the need for water in these two sub-areas of the project; two, the local unity in support for the project of all the agencies involved; and, three, the assurances that we can give for financing the project, together with the method of such financing.

1. The Need for Supplemental Water in Santa Clara County.

Our present sources of water are threefold: First, there is the local supply of natural water originating as precipitation and amounting to an average annual supply of 260,000 acre-feet. This annual supply is made available for use only through the past efforts of the local water conservation districts and the construction by them of ten reservoirs within Santa Clara County which hold back the winter flood waters for later release to recharge the ground water basins of the area. Second, imported supplies from California's State Water Project through the South Bay Aqueduct. Pursuant to a contract with the State of California, the Flood Control and Water District is entitled to a maximum annual supply of 100,000 acre-feet. Our delivery schedule calls for us to receive 50,600 acre-feet in 1967 and 88,000 acre-feet in 1968, which is the planned delivery of the aqueduct until 1990. This source will all be used in the North Santa Clara County sub-area. Third, water imported by the City and County of

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 2 OF 21

San Francisco through its Hetch-Hetchy Aqueduct. Water from this source is now being purchased by four cities and one distributing district located in the northern part of the County adjacent to the southern end of San Francisco Bay. Hetch-Hetchy water can be used only for municipal and industrial uses and must be sold only to public retailing entities. Further, it cannot be used to restore our depleted aquifers. This source of water presently supplies 33,600 acre-feet per year.

In Santa Clara County we are now using approximately 390,000 acre-feet of water each year. By the year 2020 we will be using approximately 650,000 acre-feet. Comparing our present supplies and our present use, it is readily seen that there is a deficiency of some 40 to 50,000 acre-feet of water annually, most of this occurring in the heavily developed North Santa Clara County sub-area. This deficiency is made up through overdraft on our underground water sources. In 1942, prior to the rapid post-war development in Santa Clara County and after a series of wet years, there was no overdraft and our ground water basin was in excellent condition. However, the rapid post-war development in this area immediately caused over-drafting of the ground water basin, which has continued practically without letup to the present time. Our projections

MICROFILMED
12-1967

of water requirements, arrived at after careful analysis, have let us to the conclusion that even with the imports from the Hetch-Hetchy System and the South Bay Aqueduct overdraft conditions will continue even with San Felipe and throughout the project period except for a very few years just prior to and after 1970.

In the light of these analyses and in view of our present and future overdraft conditions, it can be clearly and emphatically stated that water is needed not only for the desired expansion of our local economy but needed for the survival of the present economy. Expansion will occur even though growth were to be discouraged. Since the Santa Clara County sub-areas are in the hub of the Northern California financial, commercial, and industrial area located in and around San Francisco Bay, people will move into the area and our water requirements will, naturally, increase.

Aside from the need for additional sources of water to take care of our expanding economy, we are suffering from a land subsidence problem which is reaching staggering proportions. This subsidence of the ground surface has been caused by the withdrawal of underground water supplies and the overdraft conditions that I mentioned a moment ago. Subsidence in the North Santa Clara County sub-area became readily

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12-1967

apparent in 1932 when the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey measured the elevation of land surfaces within Santa Clara County and discovered that the elevations had dropped since their first survey made in 1912. Every successive survey made since that date by the USC&GS has shown increasing land subsidence. Surveys made after a series of wet years, during which there was an approximate balance between water supplies and water use and a lack of overdraft conditions in the ground water basin, showed a retardation of the rate and even a temporary cessation of subsidence. However, these brief wet years were followed by a series of dry years when overdraft conditions again occurred and later surveys by the USC&GS again demonstrated that the land surface was subsiding further. There appears to be no disagreement with the conclusion reached by the United States Geological Survey which has studied this problem that the subsidence is directly related to the overdraft conditions on our ground water basin and if these overdraft conditions can be corrected by supplemental water supplies the land subsidence problem can be solved.

The average ground water levels in the Northern Santa Clara County sub-area have dropped from an average of 60 feet below ground surface in 1942 to 200 feet at the present time.

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 5 OF 21

Eighty percent of the area of the Valley floor from which the North Santa Clara County sub-area obtains 66 percent of its total water supply is being pumped from below sea level--the deepest points being over 200 feet below the level of San Francisco Bay. We are under the constant threat of massive salt water intrusion into the underground aquifers. Total subsidence in Northern Santa Clara County since the problem was first discovered is now in excess of 14 feet. Developed areas around the southern perimeter of San Francisco Bay now must be protected with dikes to prevent them from being flooded by the daily tidal action within San Francisco Bay.

The cost of subsidence cannot be easily measured in dollars, because the damages are caused in so many ways to such a large segment of our population. The nature of the damage, however, is fairly easily defined. Subsidence causes damage to wells; as the ground sinks the well casings are dragged downward, telescope and collapse. It causes damage to storm drains and sanitary sewers, because as the ground sinks the grade of the sewer facilities changes to a flatter grade, making them less efficient. This requires either replacement or enlargement of storm drain and sanitary sewer facilities. Subsidence also creates difficulties with our flood control channels. As the land surface sinks and the

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 6 OF 21

sea level remains constant, it becomes necessary to raise the dikes around the southern edge of San Francisco Bay and the flood control channel levees to points upstream from the effects of tidal action. During this calendar year alone, the Flood Control and Water District is spending a quarter of a million dollars to raise the levees on the Guadalupe Slough. In following years we can anticipate similar expenditures for correction of the Coyote Slough, the Alviso Slough, and the Stevens Creek Outfall. The beds of four of our streams are higher than the surrounding ground level. Our general estimate of dollar damage caused by subsidence would be upwards of 300,000 dollars annually.

I would like to call the Committees' attention to a study now in progress by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. This study has not been published but the results have been released to the press and appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on March 28 of this year under the headline, "The Decline and Fall of our Valley Floor". This article has been reproduced and is contained herein as Exhibit "A". It points out that the average subsidence in Northern Santa Clara County since 1960 is at the rate of approximately one-half foot per year in various parts of the Valley, including the central part of the City of San Jose, a metropolitan area with a

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 7 OF 21

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population of almost 400,000.

2. Local Unity

I would like to briefly point out that there is complete harmony and unity among all of the public entities within the service area of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project. There is unity between counties. The four counties involved in the service area have formed the committee known as the San Felipe Committee. This committee was established for the purpose of joint negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation so that we might obtain a uniform type of contract within the entire service area. We are actively engaged with the Bureau's representatives in the drafting of such a contract.

Within the Santa Clara County sub-areas there is a further type of unity. The three major districts in Santa Clara County; namely, the Santa Clara County Flood Control and Water District, the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District, and the South Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District are now in the process of unification. The Boards of these three districts in anticipation of San Felipe and realizing that unification is necessary for efficient administration and operation of a total water system have voluntarily taken steps

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 8 OF 21

to consolidate. Legislation authorizing consolidation was introduced before the State Legislature earlier this year. There was no opposition to the consolidation at either the Senate or Assembly hearings, and, the Governor has signed the bill. Consolidation of the water districts is anticipated in the spring of 1968. All of the agencies concerned believe that greater efficiency and economy will result.

FINANCING OF THE TOTAL WATER PROGRAM

Financing and repayment of the San Felipe Division Project is no doubt of great importance to the Federal Government. Since Santa Clara County will use approximately 76 percent of the water supplied by the San Felipe Division and will repay approximately 80 percent of the reimbursable costs of the project, financing is also of extreme importance to Santa Clara County. Santa Clara County's total financing program includes not only the repayment of reimbursable costs of the San Felipe Division but also the costs payable to the State of California for imported water supplies being delivered through the South Bay Aqueduct, the local conservation program which has been essentially completed through the construction of the ten previously mentioned reservoirs and distribution facilities constructed by the local water districts, the construction of a comprehensive water treatment and distribution system to handle the supplies of imported water, and all of the maintenance and operation costs related to local conservation, importation and distribution.

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 9 OF 21

Construction of the filtration and distribution system for the imported water is now in progress. Stage I which handles the supplies of water imported through the State's South Bay Aqueduct has been completed. Stage II which consists of the filtration and distribution of treated water in the North Santa Clara County sub-area is over 50 percent complete. Stage III will consist of the construction of distribution mains to deliver the water from the San Felipe Division into the previously constructed segments of the system in the North Santa Clara County sub-area and to distribute water into the South County sub-area. This system is described in detail in Exhibit "B", "The In-County Water Distribution System", under the heading Stage III, and is illustrated on Exhibit "C". Local costs for the construction of the In-County System in the North Santa Clara County sub-area are estimated to be approximately 75,000,000 dollars when completed with an additional 15,000,000 dollars to 20,000,000 dollars being contemplated for the South Santa Clara County sub-area.

In order to finance both the importation facilities

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 10 OF 21

whether they be State or Federal as well as the In-County distribution systems in the North and South County sub-areas, a five-cent County-wide tax on land and improvements has been collected since fiscal year 1964. Revenue from this tax now amounts to slightly under 1,000,000 dollars annually. This amount will increase with growing assessed value to an amount estimated to be well in excess of 3,000,000 dollars annually by year 2020. An additional tax on land is levied in the South Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District, which will produce 187,000 dollars this year.

A second source of revenue to finance the facilities will come from sales of treated water. We now have firm contracts extending over a seventy-year term with the San Jose Water Works which is the largest single distribution system west of the Mississippi River area in private ownership, with the California Water Service Company, the Campbell Water Company, and the City of Santa Clara. These contracts guarantee repayment of all costs for treatment of the raw water as well as a price component for the raw water itself which will be purchased from both the State and Federal governments. Revenues from this source will first be received at the beginning of the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1967. During the first fiscal year the total revenues from this source will be in the approximate amount of 540,000 dollars.

The third source of revenue comes from ground water charges. Charges have been imposed upon all ground water extractions in the North Santa Clara County sub-area. When Federal water is available, the same type of charge will be levied in the South sub-area as a substitute for its present tax on land. Following the Federal practices, there are rate differentials between agricultural water and non-agricultural ground water charges which are levied by both the Flood Control and Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District in the North Santa Clara County sub-area. The combined charges of the two districts established for the current fiscal year are $8.00 per acre-foot for agricultural water and $26.40 per acre-foot for municipal and industrial water. When these entities are united, as is expected at an early date, a single charge will continue in the same amount as the present combined charges. These revenues presently amount to approximately 3,780,000 dollars annually. In order to insure accuracy of measurement and payment, the Flood Control and Water District has installed meters on all wells producing substantial amounts of water in the northern area of Santa Clara County.

It should be emphasized that this financial method

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 11 OF 21

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 12 OF 21

combining three different sources of revenue is an established program presently in smooth and successful operation. Included in our present rate structures are the prospective costs of the San Felipe Division. Based on our best estimates of increasing water use and assessed valuation, the rates just mentioned should remain constant until approximately 1980, when adjustments may become necessary. Finally, it is to be noted that the ad valorem taxes and the ground water extraction excise are payable whether the taxpayer actually receives Federal water or not.

In conclusion I would like to repeat that all of the water agencies in Santa Clara County strongly urge the authorization of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project. The project has been formally approved by all of these agencies and many others as shown by the resolutions we have offered. Additionally, both the Santa Clara County Water Commission, which represents all of the cities within Santa Clara County, and the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee which are advisory to the Board of Supervisors have given unqualified support. The water is badly needed and we are ready to pay for it by sound and established financing procedures.

Mr. Chairman, I would again like to thank the Committee and express my appreciation for the opportunity to present this statement to you.

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 13 OF 21

SAN JOSE, CALIF., TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1967

The Decline and Fall Of Our Valley Floor

A U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey team has found subsidence in the Santa Clara Valley — the decline and fall of the ground itself — has increased "substantially" between 1960 and 1967.

The elevation of Martha and Virginia streets, south of San Jose State College, dropped a record 3.9 feet between late fall of 1960 and February of 1967.

Ground levels at San Jose State College fell 3.5 feet while 3.6 feet of subsidence was reported at Bellomy and Lincoln streets in Santa Clara.

In Alviso, where elevations are near or sometimes below sea level, 3.5 feet was recorded. Some elevation markers were underwater and survey crews were unable to check them.

Clarence Symns, survey chief, said subidence was found on both sides of the Bay, stretching up to Newark and Redwood City.

"It isn't high tides at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor which are causing trouble," he said. "It is probably subsidence of then harbor floor."

Santa Clara Valley has been troubled by subsidence since 1913.

Concentrated surveys of the area were started in 1933.

"There has been a significant increase in subsidence in the Santa Clara Valley between 1960 and 1967," Symns said. "The rate of subsidence has accelerated when compared with the previous survey periods including the period 1954-1960."

J. F. Poland, in his report on subsidence in the Santa Clara Valley, "A Progress Report," concluded the subsidence is caused by the withdrawal of water from the underground water basin.

"The rate of subsidence is generally in accord with the rate of fluctuation of artesian pressure. Subsidence virtually cease during a period of increasing artesian pressure from 1937 to 1940, but resumed at an accelerated rate during a period of rapidly decreasing artesian pressure from 1944 to 1950," he said.

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 14 OF 21

EXHIBIT "A"

THE IN-COUNTY WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Water requirements of the County of Santa Clara are projected to exceed 600,000 acre-feet annually by the year 2020. To meet this anticipated demand, the District has contracted for 100,000 acre-feet annually from the South Bay Aqueduct of the State Water Project and is pursuing negotiations for an additional 210,000 acre-feet of imported water from the proposed Pacheco Pass Aqueduct of the San Felipe Division ofthe Central Valley Project. The remainder of the water needed to supply the area comes from importations by the Hetch-Hetchy Aqueduct and the development of local supplies.

The South Bay Aqueduct terminates just northerly of Penitencia Creek in the eastern foothills of Santa Clara County, and the Pacheco Pass Aqueduct will terminate below the base of Anderson Dam on Coyote Creek. To distribute the imported water and properly integrate these two sources with the local water supplies requires construction of interconnecting piping and a terminal reservoir. The In-County Water Distribution System is designed to achieve this integration and distribution and its facilities are shown in the attached map. Water Treatment plants are made portions of the Distribution System to provide delivery of water on the surface of the ground in lieu of using ground water facilities since the ground water basin has a limited capacity to transmit water from the points of supply to the points of use.

The facilities that will deliver raw nonpotable water are the Central, Almaden Valley, and Cross Valley Pipelines. The proposed terminal reservoir will be an enlarged Calero Reservoir astride the Distribution System. The pipelines that will serve treated water to the North County area are the West Pipeline,

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 15 OF 21

Santa Clara Distributary, and Campbell Distributary on the west side and the Milpitas and Evergreen Pipelines on the east side. Treatment plants at Rinconada and Penitencia will serve, respectively, the west side and east side treated water pipelines.

The operation of the In-County Water Distribution System's pipelines, treatment plants, and Calero Reservoir to blend the imported water supplies with the yield of the local water supplies to meet the anticipated water demands of the County can best be summarized by a series of stages as described hereinafter.

NORTH COUNTY SYSTEM

STAGE I:

During the initial years of operation, 88,000 acre-feet of water will be imported into the County via the South Bay Aqueduct. Of this, 20,000 to 25,000 acre-feet will be treated and delivered to the contracting agencies of the District as treated water. The remainder will be distributed via outlets in the Central Pipeline and the first unit of the Almaden Valley Pipeline, to the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District for ground water recharge.

Locationsof these turnouts are indicated on the attached map by arrows. The principal locations are listed below:

1. Penitencia Creek and Ponds on the east side of the valley (from the South Bay Aqueduct).
2. Los Gatos Creek percolation complex (from the Central Pipeline).
3. The West Side - San Tomas, Saratoga, and Calabazas Creeks - percolation area (from the Rinconada Force Main).
4. Ross Creek and Kooser Ponds (from Unit I Almaden Valley Pipeline).

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 16 OF 21

5. Guadalupe Creek - Alamitos percolation complex (from Unit I, Almaden Valley Pipeline).

It is interesting to note that with completion of the first segment of the Almaden Valley Pipeline all of the existing principal recharge areas, with the exception of the upper Coyote Creek, are now served by the facilities constructed. Even the small Vasona Reservoir can be kept full for recreation use by releasing imported waters from the pipelines for ground water recharge rather than the local runoff from Vasona. Further, the present construction has ample capacity to deliver the ultimate allotment from South Bay Aqueduct to any point in the present ground water recharge system.

STAGE II:

The planned second stage includes the construction of the water treatment plants and auxiliary facilities necessary to deliver water to them and treated water to retail agencies for direct service to consumers. These facilities are key units in the water importation and distribution program to eliminate the overdraft on the ground water basin, halt the threat of saline water contamination of the ground water, and stop land surface subsidence which threatens the entire north county area around the San Francisco Bay with salt water inundation.

The treated water system includes the Penitencia Water Treatment Plant and the Milpitas and Evergreen Pipelines on the east side of the Valley and the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant, the Rinconada Force Main, the treated water reservoir, the West Pipeline, and the Santa Clara and Campbell Distributaries on the west side of the Valley. The Vasona Pump Station at the end of the Central Pipeline will pump South Bay Aqueduct water through the Rinconada Force Main to the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant during the peak delivery periods and will also pump water through the Almaden Valley Pipeline to Calero Reservoir during winter months for use in later peak water requirement months when the Almaden Valley Pipeline is extended to Calero. The enlargement of Calero Reservoir will be required for regulation of the imported water and for emergency storage.

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 17 OF 21

At the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant will be located the nerve center of the In-County Water Distribution System. Information on the status of the water importation aqueducts and the distribution pipelines will be telemetered into the control center at the plant and water turnouts throughout the system will be controlled from this center to allocate and make best use of the available water. This telemetry and supervisory control system will through automation result in efficient and economical operation of the entire water importation program in accordance with the water needs of the County.

STAGE III:

This stage of operation of the In-County Water Distribution System will provide for the delivery of water from the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project. The construction of the Cross Valley Pipeline would be completed in ample time to receive water from the Bureau's project. In addition to the use of storage at Calero Reservoir for emergency storage and to meet the peak monthly demands of the area for imported water, a small amount of the stored water could be released from Calero for recreation, percolation in Almaden Valley, and fisheries enhancement.

The Coyote-Alamitos Canal will be enlarged to provide for gravity delivery

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 18 OF 21

of imported water from the Bureau's project to the Coyote Creek Percolation Ponds and the Alamitos Percolation Pond complex on the Guadalupe River for ground water recharge. This gravity flow will be supplemented by pumped flow through the Cross Valley Pipeline to Calero Reservoir to provide imported water at a higher elevation for delivery to water treatment plants and to other ground water recharge areas. The Cross Valley Pipeline would be constructed sometime after completion of the Almaden Valley Pipeline to Calero Reservoir. Exact staging would be determined by subsequent closer focusing on increasing water demands.

Following completion of the Cross Valley Pipeline, the integrated water distribution system would be in full operation and, on a seasonal basis, the normal modes of operation would follow a typical pattern. During the winter, monthly flows from the South Bay Aqueduct would meet the estimated requirements for treated water of both the east and west sides of the Valley because little ground water recharge with imported water would be taking place. Winter deliveries of Federal water would be stored in Calero Reservoir for release in the spring and summer months.

During the summer, the amount of water available from South Bay Aqueduct will be insufficient to meet the treated water and recharge requirements of the east side of the Santa Clara Valley. As a result, the entire imported water supply both for treatment and for ground water recharge on the west side of the County must be served from the Bureau's project. Water stored the previous months in Calero Reservoir plus additional Federal water will be released through the Almaden Valley Pipeline to the Vasona Pump Station where the majority will be pumped to the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant on the west side and small amounts will be pumped through the Central Pipeline to meet the water supply deficiencies on the east side.

MICROFILMED 12-1967
PG 19 OF 21

Within any 12 month period, to meet emergencies or shut-downs of either import system, flow can take place in both directions in the Central and Almaden Valley Pipelines and both State and Federal as well as local water can be stored and released from the enlarged Calero Reservoir. This demonstrates the flexibility for non-routine and operational schemes that have been built into the In-County Water Distribution System. These possibilities are further noted in the discussion of the anticipated latter years' operation.

STAGE IV:

During such latter years, monthly flows of imported State water would be able to meet the full needs of the east side development for a period of only two or three months in the winter. During the remaining 9 to 10 months the State water would meet only a portion of the water needs of the east side and imported Federal water must be delivered through the Cross Valley Pipeline, Calero Reservoir, Almaden Valley Pipeline, Vasona Pump Station, and Central Pipeline to meet the remainder of the needs of the east side and the full needs of the rest of the north County. Storage space in the enlarged Calero Reservoir is filled in the winter months and utilized to diminish the summer peaking requirement on the Cross Valley Pipeline.

During this period, approximately 1985-1995, it is estimated the District will be purchasing 20 million kilowatt-hours per year of power at the Rinconada Water Treatment Plant and Vasona Pump Station in order to adequately serve

MICROFILMED 12-1967
PG 20 OF 21

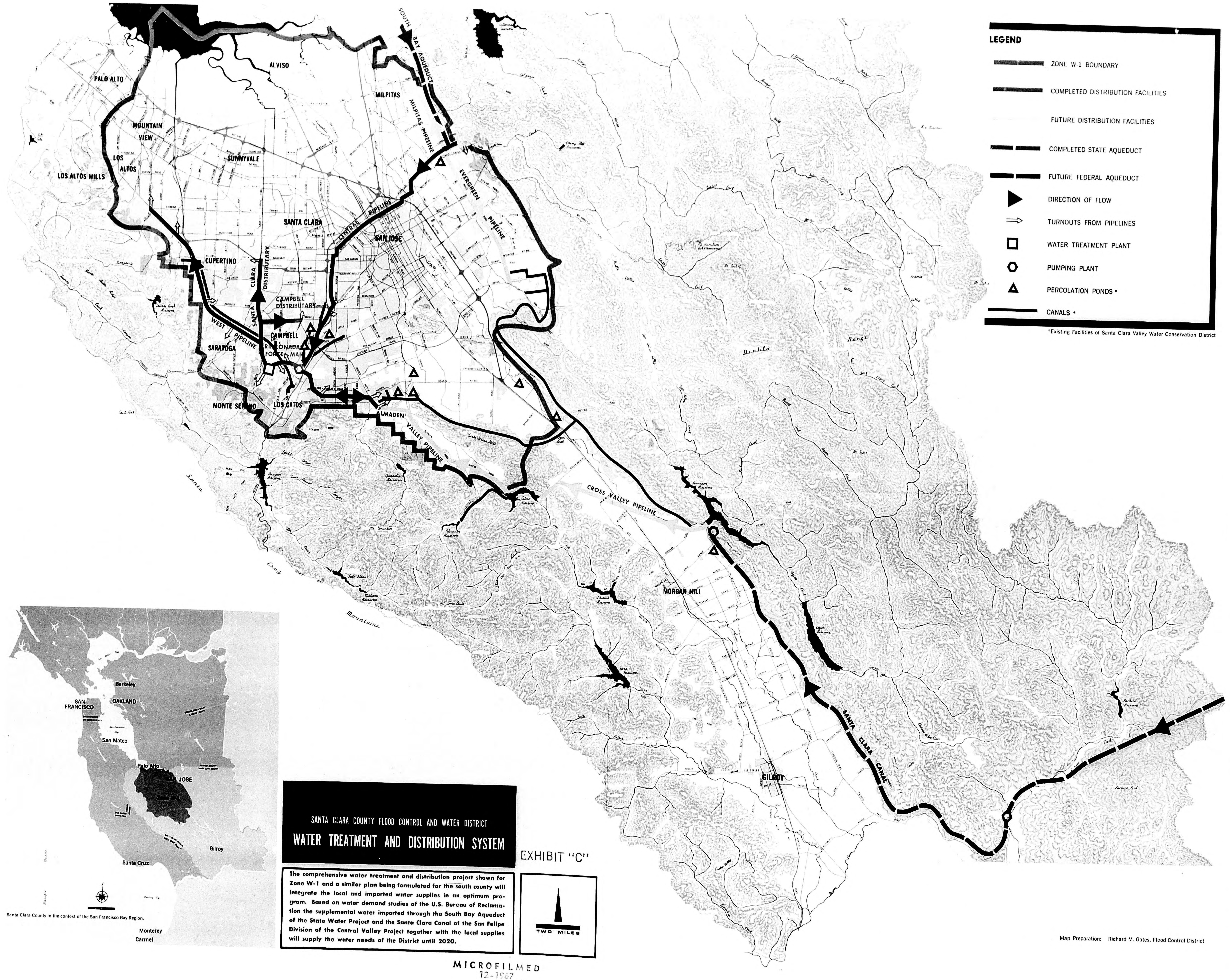
treated and raw water to its service areas in the north County through the completed system.

SOUTH COUNTY SYSTEM

The South County Distribution System is presently being formulated to serve the area south of Cochran Road. This coordinated System will provide for direct surface distribution of treated water to retailing agencies and for ground water recharge as is being accomplished in the North County area. In addition, there is under consideration a distribution system for surface delivery of agricultural water to areas along the east side of the valley that cannot be served by ground water. This agricultural system was suggested in the survey report of the Bureau of Reclamation recommending authorization and construction of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project.

Analyses of the coordinated South County Distribution System will be concluded prior to 1970 so that financing and construction of the facilities can be completed by the time water is available from the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project.

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 21 OF 21



Santa Clara County in the context of the San Francisco Bay Region.

LEGEND

- ZONE W-1 BOUNDARY
- COMPLETED DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES
- FUTURE DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES
- COMPLETED STATE AQUEDUCT
- FUTURE FEDERAL AQUEDUCT
- ▶ DIRECTION OF FLOW
- ⇒ TURNOUTS FROM PIPELINES
- □ WATER TREATMENT PLANT
- ⬡ PUMPING PLANT
- △ PERCOLATION PONDS *
- CANALS *

*Existing Facilities of Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER DISTRICT

WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

EXHIBIT "C"

The comprehensive water treatment and distribution project shown for Zone W-1 and a similar plan being formulated for the south county will integrate the local and imported water supplies in an optimum program. Based on water demand studies of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation the supplemental water imported through the South Bay Aqueduct of the State Water Project and the Santa Clara Canal of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project together with the local supplies will supply the water needs of the District until 2020.

TWO MILES

Map Preparation: Richard M. Gates, Flood Control District

MICROFILMED
12-1967
PG 1 OF 1